

216 Echo Company at Camp LeJeune in Fallujah, Iraq, Ryan was injured in an IED explosion. On December 11, he was awarded the Purple Heart, recognizing his great sacrifice for the defense of our country. The story of Ryan's bravery inspired the following poem, written by United States Capitol Guide, Albert Carey Caswell:

## A PATRIOT

A Patriot...  
 A young man who goes off to war...  
 But, for his country his burden bore!  
 Lock and Load,  
 A man who so lives by a code...  
 Is that not but what heaven is for?  
 A fine Marine!  
 Who on battle fields of honor, with but his  
 courage seen!  
 When, heartache would so intervene!  
 When, his new battle would begin  
 To rebuild where none lies left, all in  
 courage's quest... as he so intervenes!  
 Without a leg as seen, when so comes within  
 his inter being.  
 The Proof!  
 The Truth! Of what his heart and soul has  
 willed. The Truth!  
 As all around him, he brings people to tears  
 to so instill...  
 As we watch him rebuild...and fight the  
 fears!  
 With his patriotic heart so filled, to our chil-  
 dren to so instill...so dear!  
 Of All The Best, yes nothing less! As this pa-  
 triot climbs this hill with no fear!  
 To Teach Us,  
 To Reach Us....To So Beseech Us....  
 As has Ryan so been seen, as where patriot-  
 ism so stands....for all of us to under-  
 stand!  
 The real Neon Dion!

Shining far . . . Patriotism's Star . . . Shin-  
 ing way beyond! Shining far!  
 Ooh Rah . . . you've come so far . . . so fast  
 . . . Marines Do, They do no ask!  
 For in this, Our Country Tis A Thee!  
 Has come throughout her very history, such  
 fine men and women as he!  
 Who are but her very soul, her very fabric of  
 gold so indeed! As why we are free!  
 Ryan, March On You Patriot. We see!  
 Dedicated to Ryan Dion . . . all the fine  
 men . . . and women just like him!

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARIE  
 SOLDO

## HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 9, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my good friend Marie Soldo by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. I rise today to honor my good friend Marie H. Soldo, for her many years of dedicated service at Sierra Health Services and the southern Nevada community and to wish her the best in her retirement.

Before joining Sierra, Marie served for 7 years as a Regional HMO Program Consultant for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this position she was responsible for promoting HMO development, monitoring

operations, and funding developing HMOs in her assigned region.

After becoming a part of the Sierra Health team Marie was appointed Vice President of Government Affairs and Special Projects on January 1, 1988, and promoted to Executive Vice President of Government Affairs and Special Projects in 1997.

Ms. Soldo is a member of several professional organizations, including Chairwoman of the Sierra Community Healthcare Foundation Board of Trustees. She served as President of the Nevada Association of Health Plans and serves as a Director for Health Plan of Nevada, Inc., Med One Health Plan, COU, Inc., Northern Nevada Health Network, Prime Health, Inc., Prime Holdings, Inc., and Sierra Military Health Services, Inc.

In addition to her service to the southern Nevada community, Maria has dedicated herself to improving the lives of those in Africa and Latin America. Maria has participated in medical missions to Belize to provide health care services to the local people and assisted in establishing a scholarship program for African women seeking a bachelor's degree in theology in Nairobi, Kenya. Additionally, Maria helped raise funds for the International Health Partners, Tanzania.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend Marie Soldo. Her commitment to the people of southern Nevada is truly commendable, as is her efforts on behalf of the local populations in developing nations. I congratulate her on service and wish her the best of luck in her much deserved retirement.